

# THE PRESBYTERIAN

OF THE SOUTH  
COMBINING  
THE SOUTHWESTERN PRESBYTERIAN  
THE CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN  
THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN

VOL. LXXXVI.

RICHMOND, NEW ORLEANS, ATLANTA, MAY 23, 1919

No. 19



## Editorial Notes and Comment



ELEVEN MILLION loaves of bread go down the throats of drinking men and women in this country every day in the form of alcoholic beverages. Is this fearful waste to be allowed to continue when food is so scarce that the probability is that before the end of the year millions of people in this and other countries will be starving for lack of the bread that has in this way been destroyed? The leading men in all departments of government, in the army, in the navy and in the business world are realizing the necessity of war-time national prohibition. The only question is whether the politicians in Congress who are not statesmen can be made to see the need of putting a stop to the manufacture of liquor. It is said that the manufacturers of liquor will suffer financial loss. The question is whether they are to suffer loss, or millions of people suffer for lack of food, and the effective power of this country be materially lessened in this trying and critical time, when it is necessary for every one to do his best.

\*\*\*

FOOD is essential to life, but probably this fact was never quite so fully realized as it is just now. And yet there are many people who do not seem to have come to a full realization of this fact, at least as it applies to the nation. In this time of war food is absolutely essential to success. A nation may have men and money and munitions in unlimited abundance; but if it does not have food, it must soon yield to its enemy. So the man who furnishes food is aiding the cause of his country just as really as is the man who furnishes munitions. The man who uses the rifle or fires the cannon, is no more loyal than the man who uses the hoe or operates the plow. A negro organization formed to prove the loyalty of its members, has adopted as its slogan, "Fight by feeding the folks." On some of their literature they have the picture of a mule pulling a plow. This they call "The field artillery." There are many men who would like to show their loyalty by enlisting in the army, who for one reason or another will not be able to do so. Let these men remember that they can show their loyalty by providing food for those who can go into the army. And we as a nation, and as individuals, should not forget that the greatest need of our allies, who are now fighting our battles for us, is not men nor money nor munitions, but food. There is scarcely a farmer in this country that cannot produce many times as much food as he and his family can eat. Let every one this year put forth effort to raise all the food that he possibly can. If this be done and what is raised is carefully preserved and prepared for the market, we can not only feed ourselves, but we can feed our allies. The government reports make a very bad showing for the wheat crop. It is too late to remedy that, but it is not too late to plant corn, potatoes, beans, peas, and many other things that can be

kept for winter use. To do this at this time is evidence of loyalty, which should be shown by every one to whom it is possible.

\*\*\*

### THE FROG HE WOULD A-COURTING GO.

By Rev. L. P. Bowen, D. D.

The old man sat in his easy chair,  
And watched the speckled times;  
The speckled creeds and speckled breeds  
And pious pantomimes;  
The nondescript divinity,  
The Movies in Theology.

"I wonder what 'tis coming to"—  
The old man mused and spake—  
"The hybrids and hermaphrodites,  
The systems so opaque;  
All sorts of vague anomalies,  
And acrobatic sophistries.

"The sacred landmarks of the past,  
The tested Formularies  
Discounted, and insurgent isms  
Ensconced in Seminaries;  
Aggressive wiles of every stamp  
Within the Calvinistic camp.

"Our Southern Church—her aim has been  
To calmly hold at bay  
The latitudinarians  
And walk her modest way.  
A little homogeneous band  
Intent upon the work in hand.

"Then comes a weird, fantastic thing,  
A wooing, beckoning hand,  
Held forth with tints like Joseph's coat,  
The vaguest in the land;  
To ask our letting down the bars  
To every ilk of shooting stars.

"Makemie once a prisoner  
In old Colonial York,  
Had cautioned versus laxity  
In faith and gospel work;  
Did he foresee through prison bars  
The antics of the shooting stars?

"Oh yes, they have their orthodox  
Within our Sister North,  
Strong, loyal Presbyterian Courts,  
Stanch witnesses of worth;  
God bless them, but what meaneth this,  
From such odd nook a proffered kiss?

"A trumped up Union is a thing  
Preposterous as can be,  
A marriage of diversities,  
A bogus unity;  
Is this contagion its own cure?  
Reductio ad absurdum sure."

The old man sat in his easy chair  
And shivered in the breeze;  
"It is a funny thing," he said,  
"And strange bed-fellows these;  
It surely somehow takes the cake,  
Ecclesiastic Irish wake."  
Berlin, Md.

\*\*\*

A man finds himself pleased, he does not know why, with the cheerfulness of his companion. It is like a sudden sunshine that awakens a secret delight in the mind, without its attending to it. The heart rejoices of its own accord, and naturally flows out into friendship and benevolence toward the person who has so kindly an effect upon it.—Addison.

POSTPONED on account of war conditions is a notice that has been sent out in regard to several gatherings of Christian workers that had previously been arranged for. We heard a prominent business man say a few days ago that the proper course for business men to pursue is to push their business as hard as possible, not to curtail it. He said it might be wise and proper to adapt methods to circumstances, but there should be no thought of giving up. Is not this good advice for the doers of the King's business? There was never a time when the needs were greater or when the prospects were brighter.

\*\*\*

ONE of our readers says: "Why not suggest through your columns to all our ministers that they cut out clippings each week for filing. It takes only a few minutes each week after reading the paper, and has proved a real gold mine of homiletic material to me. I know some do so already, but the percentage is small. Why not call attention to some simple plan of the kind in your editorial columns. My system is simply a wooden box, with flexible cardboard, bent double and fastened with a clip, the cardboard being almost the exact width of the box. A heading may be written on the top of each piece of cardboard, and the paper sheared down so as to leave the heading protruding."

\*\*\*

PREPAREDNESS is a subject that is occupying the minds of many people today, and the question is being asked by many as to whether our government is ready for war. There is another subject about which this same question may be asked. Is the Church ready for war? When our young men are called to arms, whether it be on sea or on land, what provision has the Church made for supplying their spiritual needs? One of the strange things that we have noticed is that even Christian people as a whole are much more interested in providing for their physical wants than for their spiritual necessities. The government will supply them all the socks and sweaters that are needed. It is to Christian people to supply their spiritual needs. Along the Mexican border the Y. M. C. A. has done and is doing a splendid work among the soldiers. And no doubt they will do their utmost to supply any need that may develop. But the work ought not to be left to an organization outside of the Church. The Church itself in its organized capacity ought to take hold of this matter in earnest and promptly. Let the leaders in all the branches of the Christian Church take this matter in hand at once and devise the best plan possible. The missionary organizations might get together and consider what plan can be used. A joint work, conducted by all the churches, would be the most efficacious, and would show to the world a striking illustration of Christian unity.